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JAMES GORDON BENNETT.
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XXXI. No. 338

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Young
street.—AMERICAN.

NEW YORK THEATRE, Broadway, opposite New York
Hotel.—DAUGHTER OF THE ROSE.

THEATRE FRANCAIS, Fourteenth street, near Sixth
avenue.—DAUGHTER OF THE ROSE.

GERMAN THEATRE, No. 514 Broadway—
ROMEO AND JULIET.

GERMAN THEATRE, Nos. 43 and 45 Bowery—
MARRIAGE OF FIGARO.

STONY HILL, Fourteenth street.—HAROLD'S RANSOM
BY SHERIDAN.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 603 Broadway, opposite
the Metropolitan Hotel.—IN THEIR OWN DEFENSE.

FIFTH AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, No. 234 4th Ave.—
THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO.

THEATRE FRANCAIS, 234 Broadway, opposite
the Metropolitan Hotel.—IN THEIR OWN DEFENSE.

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THE CITY.

A large fire took place in Walker and Canal streets last evening, whereby two houses were completely burned and five others more or less injured, with a total loss of about \$250,000. Five men engaged as workmen in one of the houses are missing, and three of them are supposed to have been burned to death.

The statements regarding the loss of the *Kyle Dyer* of Fire Island, and the *bea-bee* of the *Imperial* are conflicting, the passengers of the different vessels giving very different accounts of the collision. The condition of the *bea-bee* is a critical one. She is ashore near Sandy Hook, full of water, and the impression prevails that unless favorable weather continues for two days longer she will be a total loss.

During the week ending last Saturday evening there were four hundred and twenty-two deaths in this city, being a large increase over the number reported for the previous week.

An interesting lecture was delivered last evening in the Church of the Transfiguration, Mott street, by Rev. Father Wilson, on the subject of his travels in the Holy Land, before a very large audience.

The Church of the Divine Paternity (Dr. E. H. Chapin) was dedicated to the service of God by appropriate exercises yesterday. The building is of ample dimensions, is built of Belleville stone and brick in the perpendicular gothic style of architecture, is handsomely finished, and is capable of seating over sixteen hundred persons.

Owing to the Christmas election taking place to-day, no business will be transacted in any of the courts.

The New York and Westchester County Railroad Company made an attempt to lay a railroad track through Westchester county yesterday, and succeeded in breaking ground and laying out the permanent. They were served with an injunction while at their labors, however, and the work ceased.

The December term of the Court of General Sessions opened yesterday, and four cases were tried. James Robinson pleaded guilty to burglary in the third degree, and was sentenced to the Sing Sing Prison for five years. George Mier, charged with burglary, was sent to the Penitentiary for a year. John Wilson and Michael Mackin were acquitted of the charge of stealing small sums of money. The Grand Jury were discharged till the 12th inst.

The further hearing of the charge against James H. Greatrex of having manufactured forged notes on the Union Bank of Scotland, at Glasgow, was resumed yesterday. The evidence for the prosecution has closed. Mr. George M. Curtis, for the defence, submitted that no case had been made out for the extradition of the prisoner. Commissioner Newton formally adjourned the matter till Thursday.

There were some thirty persons arraigned before Judge Smalley in the United States Circuit Court, yesterday, on charges of uttering and passing counterfeit fractional currency and compound interest notes. They pleaded not guilty, and Monday next was appointed for the commencement of trial in the several cases.

The stock market was buoyant yesterday. Gold closed at 140 1/2 a 141.

The amount of business transacted yesterday was limited, though the markets generally were not essentially changed, previous prices being sustained for both foreign and domestic merchandise. Cotton was more active and a shade firmer. Coffee was dull and nominal.

On Change four was quiet, but unchanged. Wheat was dull, but steady. Corn was in limited demand, but fully 1/2 c. higher. Oats were steady. Pork was dull and lower. Beef was steady, while lamb was more active, and at a slight concession. Freight was quiet.

Beef cattle, under an improved demand and limited receipts, ruled firmer at the opening, sales being made at prices indicating an advance of fully 1/2 c. per lb. good and medium cattle bringing 13c. a 16c., and extra 17c., while common sold all the way from 11c. to 13c. During the latter part of the day, however, the improvement was partially lost, though holders generally demanded full prices. Milch cows were more inquired for and higher, consequent upon the continued light supply and limited receipts. Good cows commanded \$80 a \$100, while extra sold as high as \$115 a \$125. Common sold at prices ranging from \$50 to \$75. Veal calves were without noteworthy change, the market being moderately active and steady at 10c. a 12c., with an occasional sale as high as 15c. The market for sheep and lambs has not varied materially, though scarcely as firm, owing to the increased receipts, the former selling at 5c. a 6 1/2 c., and the latter at 6c. a 7c. Hogs have declined considerably under free arrivals and the absence of any demand from packers. About 5,000 head were on the market this morning, but were all disposed of at the following prices, viz: Best quality 6 1/2 c. a 7c., fair to good 6 1/2 c. a 6 3/4 c., and common and rough 6 1/4 c. a 6 1/2 c., and light market plus at 7c. a 7 1/2 c. The total receipts were: 4,984 hogs, 43 milch cows, 794 veal calves, 28,000 sheep and 15,000 swine.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Court of Queen's Bench, at St. James, Canada, commenced its session yesterday for the trial of the Fenian lately captured at Montreal. The charge was delivered by the Judge and the jury will probably find true bills against them to-day. Fear is again entertained of a raid from the Vermont border. Ray, John McMahon, one of the condemned Canadian prisoners, has written a letter to a friend in this city explaining his connection with the Fenian organization, and also his reasons for not pleading "guilty" at the trial.

We have filed from Bermuda dated November 20. The British corvette *Jason*, of twenty-one guns, had arrived from St. John, N. B., and the British war vessel *Favos* from Halifax. The latter is an iron-plated vessel, and the first ever seen at Bermuda. She will remain there during the winter months. Governor Ord was about to embark for Singapore, of which he had been appointed Governor. It is again proposed to unite the Bermudas with New Scotia, and also with the West Indies and Trinidad, by submarine telegraph.

A rumor was prevalent in New Orleans, yesterday to the effect that Maximilian had accepted the proposition of the conservatives and returned to Mexico city, and also that the commanding officer of the United States troops on the Rio Grande had received instructions not to interfere in Mexican affairs unless ordered from headquarters.

Two men named Charles Adams and George Clark were arrested in Jersey City on Friday, charged with the robbery of United States bonds at Buffalo to the amount of \$25,000, besides \$500 worth of jewelry. They were taken to Buffalo for trial.

A fire occurred at Oil City, Pa., on Sunday night, in the house of John Donohue, by which an old man aged one hundred years and two others were burned to death.

The schooner *M. Ballard* was wrecked in Lake Ontario on Friday morning, and the captain and eleven men were drowned.

Governor Marvin has been re-elected United States Senator for Florida.

The Virginia Legislature met yesterday at Richmond, but in consequence of no quorum being present, did not organize.

In the Tennessee House of Representatives yesterday a bill to establish free common schools in the State was indefinitely postponed.

The First Day of Congress.

The first day of the second session of the Thirty-ninth Congress was "big with the fate of Caesar and of Rome." First, there was a procession of the republican city clubs and freedmen in honor of the two houses. Next—after the call of the roll of the House, an orthodox radical prayer from the Chaplain and the reading of the message, in spite of a motion of the implacable Stevens to postpone it till to-day—a bill was rushed through—111 to 29—repealing the thirteenth section of the amnesty act, authorizing the President to grant pardons, and was sent over to the Senate, where, by an objection interposed, it was laid over for one day. This bill does not look well for Greeley's programme of a universal amnesty for impartial suffrage; but what it really signifies will doubtless soon appear.

Next, Mr. Boutwell brings in his bill directing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell two millions of gold every Monday, and Mr. Schenck brings in his bill providing for the assembling of the first session of the Fortieth Congress on the 4th of March, both of which will doubtless be passed, the latter without much loss of time. "If such things come in the green tree, what shall we have in the dry?" We may expect the most exciting, eventful, momentous and protracted session of any legislative body since the *Long Parliament*.

The President's Message—Everything left to Congress.

The President's Message is before our readers. They will find it, as an exhibit of the working of the several Executive Departments during the last year, an interesting, instructive and satisfactory State paper, while upon the great issue of Southern reconstruction it reads like a chapter from "The World before the Deluge." Mr. Johnson devotes two tedious newspaper columns to a defence of his last year's measures and general ideas of Southern restoration, including some beautiful extracts from Washington's Farewell Address and from Jefferson and Jackson, in support of his theory of State rights and the powers of Congress, and then he drops the subject. It is an argument to the court after the jury had rendered their verdict. It may be compared to a history of France, omitting the revolution which overthrew the Bourbons—as a trivial matter not worth mentioning in pleading their claims to the throne.

It is indeed remarkable that after deliberately submitting his Southern policy against the plan of Congress to the people in the late elections the President should not have a word to say of the will of the people, as made manifest in these elections. He talks of "the ancient landmarks," as if none of them had been swept away by the late Southern deluge of fire and blood, as if the war had changed nothing and as if the recent elections had decided nothing. In a word, Mr. Johnson forgets that we have passed through the fiery ordeal of a mighty revolution and that the pre-existing order of things is gone and can return no more—that a great work of reconstruction is before us, and that we cannot escape it. Taking it for granted, however, that this superfluous argument of the Executive on his exploded policy is only an ingenious device, with his colors flying, for turning over the whole matter absolutely into the hands of Congress, where it belongs, we may dismiss this branch of the Message without further remark.

Passing over his summary of the departmental reports and the recommendations in connection therewith, the President's brief statement of our relations with England and France next challenges our attention. He says "it is a matter of regret that no considerable advance has been made towards an adjustment" of our difficulties with England, arising from Anglo-rebel depredations upon our commerce during our late civil war; but he thinks the delay in this matter may be charged "in no small degree" to the embarrassments resulting from the late change in the British ministry; and he expects that as the attention of the new ministry has been called to the subject, it "will be now taken up and considered in a becoming and friendly spirit." In regard to France, it appears that, expecting the removal of the November installment of the French troops from Mexico, as promised by Napoleon, our new Minister to Mexico, Mr. Campbell, with General Sherman as his confidential adviser, was sent off on the 9th of November to look up the republic, under the impression that with the exit of the first installment of French bayonets the republic would displace the empire. It further appears, however, that on the 22d of November information was received from the Indians under the control of the military authorities, and gives good reasons for such a policy. His report is brief, but contains an interesting account of the measures by which he hopes within the next year to overcome some of the difficulties that have presented themselves in the past within his important district, so that the important work of the Pacific Railways and the general onward march of civilization and improvement may not suffer from the depredations of the savage.

The reports of Generals Pope, Halleck, McDowell and Steele relate mainly to Indian affairs. General McDowell believes the main difficulty in the District of California to be with the whites more than the Indians, and states that while men shoot and maltreat the natives with utter impunity. Here, we submit, is a chance for our philanthropists, now that they are about to lose the negro as an object of sympathy. General Meade makes a report of his operations on the frontier in connection with the Fenian movement against Canada, and shows that but for his prompt action our Canadian neighbors might have witnessed the sight of more of their "Queen's Own" in the neighborhood of Montreal running away from the bayonets of the terrible Fenians. The report of Phil Sheridan is like Phil Sheridan. It reads with all the snap and fire of one of his cavalry raids. The surrender of the rebel commander, E. Kirby Smith, bore upon its face, he says, the evidence of double dealing. His real object was to get security for the Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi troops to return to their homes in safety, while the Texans, who made a constant boast that they were not conquered, and that they would renew the fight at some future day, declined to surrender and returned to their homes, destroying magazines on their way and carrying off the arms and ammunition from the different arsenals. Sheridan tells us that it was the original intention of this branch of the rebel army to organize a column of fifteen thousand confederates at Marshall, Texas, under Jeff Davis, for the invasion of Mexico. The capture of Davis spoiled this scheme. Sheridan makes no concealment of his sympathy with the Mexican republicans and regards Maximilian's imperial rule as only the "history of the buccaner Morgan," on an extended scale. The presence of the large Union force in Texas and on the Rio Grande, the General believes, settled Maximilian's business, and he advances the opinion that if a demand had been made twelve months since for the withdrawal of the imperial troops on the ground that the invasion of Mexico was a part of the rebellion, it would have been successful, and the sufferings of that country would be sooner have ended.

The condition of Texas itself is not represented as very promising. Pride in the rebellion is the standard of loyalty, and the Union soldiers are in bad odor. "My own opinion," says Sheridan, "is that the trial of a white man for the murder of a freedman, in Texas, would be a farce; and, in making this statement, I make it because truth compels me, and for no other reason." The troubles in New Orleans are dismissed with a brief notice, and the General evidently looks upon Governor Wells as a political demagogue, anxious to retain office by any means. During the canvass in which he was a

candidate he filled vacancies in office throughout the State with returned confederates, in order to advance his own chances of election. "I only speak of it now," says Sheridan, "because it led afterwards to bitterness and shedding of blood, in which the military were to some extent involved." The whole report of General Sheridan will be read with interest.

Major General Thomas confines himself to submitting the sub-reports of the officers in his department of the Tennessee. General Wood, from Mississippi, gives a good general account of that State, alleging that substantial justice is now administered throughout the State by the local judicial tribunals to all classes of persons, irrespective of color or antecedent political opinions. He admits, however, the presence of a great deal of crime and that many outrages have been suffered to pass unpunished. The labor question has of late presented a more promising attitude, since the freedmen have been taught that freedom is not licentiousness. The contract system is regarded as the best, both for the employer and employed, although some of its details are unjust and oppressive. The crops are almost a total failure. Reliable information goes to show that the corn grown in the State will not feed the people until the first of January, and the cotton made will not repay the cost of production. In Kentucky General Jeff C. Davis reports the only trouble is in the increasing number of "guerrillas" and "negro regulators," whose lawless acts have necessitated the more active interference of the military. The report of General Daniel E. Sickles to the Department of the South is hopeful in its tone. There is a marked improvement in the condition of affairs, both as regards the administration of justice and the question of free labor. In this respect the Department Commander differs from the Governor of the State, whose recent message to the Legislature was full of gloomy apprehensions and of sullen murmurings against the attempt of the "conquerors of the South" to "further humiliate and degrade" her people. So far as free labor is concerned, General Sickles quotes the remark of the Colonial Governor of Jamaica in 1835:—"Wherever the planters wish the thing to succeed it is successful." We have no doubt there is sound truth in this, and that the main difficulty in the way of the entire success of the free labor system may be found in the stiff-necked obstinacy and stubborn prejudices of the old slave-owning aristocracy. There is one portion of General Sickles' report which will be read with satisfaction. Information has reached him that General Wade Hampton recently delivered an address before an association of rebel soldiers, in which he spoke of the government and armies of the United States in a manner well calculated to incite discontent and hostility in the minds of the people. "I have directed an inquiry into the matter," says General Sickles, "in order that the association of rebel soldiers may be suppressed and General Hampton admonished to observe the terms of his parole." This is a good move in the right direction.

signed for the Atlantic coast of 1867; but as American yachtsmen have surpassed the anticipations of the Parisians and decided to sail their race in 1866, the medal will be completed in time for the winner of this sweepstakes. Now let our Yacht Club add a gold cap to the French medal.

The Report of the Secretary of War—The Reports and Sub-Reports of Military Departments.

The report of the Secretary of War is a plain, well written document, containing in as brief a space as practicable a compact and well arranged history of the business and operations of that Department during the past year. The reduction of the army has been going on as rapidly as circumstances will permit, and there has been, of course, a corresponding retrenchment of expenditures. There are now only a little over eleven thousand volunteers, white and colored, left in the service; but the Secretary reminds the country that, should any national emergency arise, past experience proves that an army of the full strength of a million of men could be organized with all necessary swiftness. The importance of speedily providing the army with breech loading small arms of the best pattern has been recognized by the government, and experiments have proved that the Springfield rifle can be altered into a breech loader and become a better arm in all respects than the Prussian needle gun. This is no doubt a fact, since the latter arm has been much over-estimated. With these improved breech loaders the efficiency of the regular army of the United States will be much increased.

The total estimate of military appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1868, is \$25,205,609.

The Secretary's report is confined to the business of the Department—the expenditures of the different branches of the service, the progress of works of defence, the operations of the Freedmen's Bureau and other interesting details. It is accompanied by reports from the commanders of the military departments and of their subordinate officers, transmitted by General Grant, all of which contain matter of interest.

General Grant explains that the regular army, which has now almost entirely replaced the volunteer force, has been mainly employed during the past year in service along the constantly extending frontier and in insuring the execution of the laws and protecting life and property in the lately rebellious States. Indian hostilities have, however, diminished with the expiration of the rebellion, and the lawless class at the South has been much smaller than could have been expected after a civil war of such magnitude, although sufficiently formidable to justify the presence of a military force. General Grant suggests the abolishment of Indian agencies and the transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department—a policy which, we have no doubt, would be beneficial to the Indians as well as to our government. In a great many instances these agencies have been used as a means of defrauding both the red man and the white, and have lain at the foundation of most of our Indian difficulties.

Lieutenant General Sherman, who has had command of the military division of the Missouri for the past year, unites in this recommendation to place the entire management of the Indians under the control of the military authorities, and gives good reasons for such a policy. His report is brief, but contains an interesting account of the measures by which he hopes within the next year to overcome some of the difficulties that have presented themselves in the past within his important district, so that the important work of the Pacific Railways and the general onward march of civilization and improvement may not suffer from the depredations of the savage.

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The condition of Texas itself is not represented as very promising. Pride in the rebellion is the standard of loyalty, and the Union soldiers are in bad odor. "My own opinion," says Sheridan, "is that the trial of a white man for the murder of a freedman, in Texas, would be a farce; and, in making this statement, I make it because truth compels me, and for no other reason." The troubles in New Orleans are dismissed with a brief notice, and the General evidently looks upon Governor Wells as a political demagogue, anxious to retain office by any means. During the canvass in which he was a

candidate he filled vacancies in office throughout the State with returned confederates, in order to advance his own chances of election. "I only speak of it now," says Sheridan, "because it led afterwards to bitterness and shedding of blood, in which the military were to some extent involved." The whole report of General Sheridan will be read with interest.

Major General Thomas confines himself to submitting the sub-reports of the officers in his department of the Tennessee. General Wood, from Mississippi, gives a good general account of that State, alleging that substantial justice is now administered throughout the State by the local judicial tribunals to all classes of persons, irrespective of color or antecedent political opinions. He admits, however, the presence of a great deal of crime and that many outrages have been suffered to pass unpunished. The labor question has of late presented a more promising attitude, since the freedmen have been taught that freedom is not licentiousness. The contract system is regarded as the best, both for the employer and employed, although some of its details are unjust and oppressive. The crops are almost a total failure. Reliable information goes to show that the corn grown in the State will not feed the people until the first of January, and the cotton made will not repay the cost of production. In Kentucky General Jeff C. Davis reports the only trouble is in the increasing number of "guerrillas" and "negro regulators," whose lawless acts have necessitated the more active interference of the military. The report of General Daniel E. Sickles to the Department of the South is hopeful in its tone. There is a marked improvement in the condition of affairs, both as regards the administration of justice and the question of free labor. In this respect the Department Commander differs from the Governor of the State, whose recent message to the Legislature was full of gloomy apprehensions and of sullen murmurings against the attempt of the "conquerors